

REMARKS

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is submitted to enter the above amendments and the following information in the present continuation application.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-5 and 11-28 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter in the Preliminary Amendment filed 7 October 2003, because such claims are going to issue in the pending allowed parent application. Further, appropriate claims herein have been amended, deleted and/or added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested, and such amendments find support throughout the application as filed. Furthermore, the following remarks are submitted from Applicant's foreign representative in support of the patentability of the clarified pending claims.

The feature of clarified Claim 6 resides in that the semiconductor manufacturing apparatus including "a calculating portion (18) for obtaining an impedance at a position of the current and voltage probe on the basis of a voltage value or a current value measured by the current and voltage probe, and arithmetic processing a combined impedance of the obtained impedance and an equivalent circuit model from the current and voltage probe to earth through the wafer stage, the equivalent circuit model begin prepared beforehand, thereby to calculate at least one of a wafer voltage (V_w) and an impedance (Z_p) from the semiconductor wafer to earth through the plasma; and a processing portion for performing a processing on

the basis of at least one of the calculated wafer voltage (V_w) and the calculated impedance (Z_p)." Since at least one of a wafer voltage (V_w) and an impedance (Z_p) from the semiconductor wafer to earth through the plasma is obtained, it becomes possible to perform the processing based on the wafer voltage (V_w), that is, the etching process control, for example. Thus, it becomes possible to perform the etching process, etc., sufficiently and desirably.

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest important novel features of the present invention. For example, Turner *et al.* (US 5,939,886 A), which was cited in the parent application and has been submitted for consideration in the present continuation case, may relate to the end point determination, but does not teach or suggest obtaining at least one of a wafer voltage and an impedance from the semiconductor wafer to earth through the plasma, or displaying the obtained wafer voltage, or controlling the obtained wafer voltage.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the clarified claims pending in the present application upon entry of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment are in condition for allowance, and an early Notice to that effect is courteously solicited.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to

any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

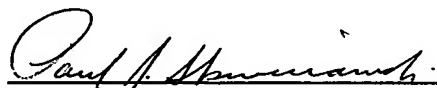
EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

No Petition is required or possible for entry of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Further, no additional claim fees are necessitated by the amendments made herein. To whatever other extent is actually and appropriately due, please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 500.39826CX1).

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Skwierawski
Registration No. 32,173
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801, USA
Telephone 703-312-6600
Facsimile 703-312-6666